

III. Quality/Compliance Issues

NHTSA Investigation on Lexus ES350 All Weather Floor Mats – On June 11, TMA submitted the response to NHTSA's inquiry regarding the Lexus ES350 All Weather Floor Mat investigation. In the response is Toyota's position regarding the installation of more than one floor mat in the driver footwell at the same time. Toyota has received complaints from owners of 38 vehicles regarding unintended acceleration. Eight crashes were reported to have happened. Some owners noted that more than one floor mat was installed in the driver footwell at the time of the incident. It is unclear, and Toyota cannot determine, if the dealers or the customers are installing more than one floor mat in the vehicle at the same time. Toyota began an owner notification last month in order to remind owners not to install more than one floor mat at the same time and has modified the mat to enlarge the warning that is already embossed on the front side. In addition, the retail packaging now includes a hang tag that attaches through the clip hole, to be removed by the owner prior to installation.

NHTSA Investigation on Sienna Liftgate Support Struts – TMA is awaiting an update from NHTSA regarding their internal testing of the Sienna liftgate. Toyota has already responded to the NHTSA's IR letter, and gave a technical demonstration of the liftgate to NHTSA. TMA will monitor the status and report if there are any new developments.

Early Warning Reporting (EWR) – Death Inquiry (DI) — On June 8, TMA submitted the response to the Death Inquiry letter (DI07-051) we received from NHTSA. The inquiry requests additional information on five of the fatal incidents reported in the fourth quarter of 2006 EWR submission.

Peer Vehicle IR - GM Trailer Hitches – TMA requested and received an extension of the due date of the peer vehicle IR for PE07-025, and investigation into alleged hitch receiver failure in certain Model Year (MY) 2002 C/K 2500 SUV's and Pickup's. The response is now due June July 9.

IV. Assessment

Frontal and Side NCAP Tests – 2008 MY Scion xB – TMA attended the front and side NCAP tests of the 2008 MY Scion xB at Karco in Adelanto, CA on June 13th. For the side test, preliminary results indicate that the vehicle will receive a 5 star rating for both the driver and rear passenger. For the frontal test, the results indicate a 4 star rating for both the driver and front passenger. The frontal results were not as expected by TMC, so TMA has negotiated a 1 week hold on release of the results and obtained the test data for TMC to review.

Compliance Tests - 2007 MY FMVSS 208 AF05 Unbelted Compliance Tests – From June 5 through June 7, NHTSA conducted FMVSS 208 compliance tests for the Camry, Yaris, and Prius at MGA Research in Burlington, WI. Each vehicle was tested in the 25 mph unbelted 5th female frontal barrier test after they returned from the dealership to have the steering column and other components replaced. Results from all three tests indicate that the vehicles comply with the regulation.

Compliance Tests - FMVSS 301R Rear Impact Tests and FMVSS 305 - NHTSA contacted TMA with news that the Camry Hybrid would be tested in the high speed rear impact test on June 21, however, there was no vehicle available for testing. NHTSA plans on conducting the test in July or August at Calspan, in Buffalo, NY.

OTHER?:

NHTSA Stars on Cars Information - TMA received the first official vehicle rating from NHTSA. The 2007 MY Toyota Matrix will receive a 5 star rating for the driver and 4 star rating for the front passenger in the frontal NCAP test. It will receive a 5 star rating for the driver and a 4 star rating for the rear passenger in the side test on vehicles equipped with side airbags. Apparently, GM paid for an optional test of the Pontiac Vibe with side airbags, which prompted this notification. The vehicle will also receive a 4 star rollover rating.